Lab to Kick Off Summer Undergraduate Laboratory Internship Program

Ten students to participate in inaugural SULI program

First there was the High School Science Bowl that reached out to students in grades 9-12, then came the Middle School Science Bowl, which offered educational opportunities for sixth- through eighth-grade students as its focus. Beginning in June, Ames Laboratory will add a third program to its list of educational offerings, one that provides research experiences for undergraduate college students.

The new program is called Summer Undergraduate Student Internship, or SULI. Funded by the Department of Energy's Office of Science, the program focuses on providing internships in real-world research settings at DOE national laboratories to students interested in careers in science and engineering. In carrying out the mission of the program, labs are to make the internships available to students who aren't located at universities in their own backyard and to encourage participation by students whose home institutions do not have major research facilities.

The Laboratory's program runs from June 13 to August 5. Students receive stipends while at the Lab. They will live in ISU guest apartments.

This year's students hail from 10 institutions, both in Iowa and outside the state. In-state colleges include Buena Vista University (Storm Lake) and Central College (Pella). Universities and colleges represented outside the state include Carleton College (North Mankato, Minn.), University of Cincinnati (Cincinnati, Ohio), Clemson University (Clemson, S.C.) Truman State University (Kirksville, Mo.), University of Missouri (Rolla, Mo.) Northwestern University (Evanston, Ill.), University of Wisconsin (Madison, Wis.) and Texas A&M University (Houston, Texas).

The participating students were culled from a list of 60 students from around the country who had selected the Ames Laboratory. The students include two freshmen, two sophomores, four juniors and two seniors.

During the eight-week summer internship program, the SULI students will work in research laboratories with Ames Lab/ISU mentors. Their interests are diverse, ranging from a desire to pursue research in chemistry and mathematics to physics and materials science.

Twenty-two Ames Lab/ISU scientists expressed interested in being mentors. Students and scientists were paired based on the students' interests and the scientists' backgrounds, and 10 matches were made. Scientists serving as mentors include George Kraus, director of Ames Lab Bio-related Initiatives and professor of chemistry, ISU; Mark Gordon, Applied Mathematics and Computational Sciences program director and distinguished professor of chemistry, ISU; Nicola Bowler, Ames Lab associate scientist and associate scientist, Center for Nondestructive Evaluation, ISU; Kai-Ming Ho, Ames Lab senior physicist and distinguished professor of physics and astronomy, ISU; Masha Sosonkina, Ames Lab scientist; Bill McCallum, Ames Lab senior metallurgist and adjunct professor, materials science and engineering, ISU; Surya Mallapragada, Materials Chemistry and Biomolecular Materials program director and associate professor, chemical engineering, ISU; Gordon Miller, Ames Lab associate and professor and chair, department of chemistry, ISU; Andreja Bakac, Ames Lab senior chemist, and Iver Anderson, Ames Lab senior metallurgist, and adjunct professor, materials science and engineering, ISU.

In addition to the 40 hours spent in their respective labs each week, the students will have to find time to complete a research paper or PowerPoint presentation on their work and submit an abstract on their research to the DOE, which will be published in the *Journal of Undergraduate Research*. Students will also attend scheduled events, including lectures, tours and group activities. The Lab's Public Affairs Office is coordinating the SULI program. Stay tuned as we follow the students throughout their eight-week internships. ■

~ Steve Karsjen

Soukoulis named Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Costas Soukoulis, senior physicist, has been awarded the title of Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences. He is a professor of physics and astronomy and a world leader in four fields of theoretical condensed matter physics. The title of Distinguished Professor, first awarded in 1956, recognizes faculty members for exemplary performance in at least two of the following areas: teaching and advising; research, scholarship or artistic creativity; and extension, university service or professional practice. Soukoulis will be honored during the university convocation in September. ■

Costas Soukoulis

Tornado Time-out

The Lab's seasonal tornado drill gave TASF and Spedding Hall employees a rare chance to come together in one spot to share some conversation and a laugh or two. And even though the Spedding basement is not the most inspiring place to catch up with friends and co-workers, people seemed to enjoy the opportunity to socialize. Perhaps a good old-fashioned ice-cream social in front of TASF over a noon hour would provide a better setting. Any interest out there?